

Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Health
Hearing on “Securing Our Nation's Prescription Drug Supply Chain”
April 25, 2013

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Keeping our prescription drugs safe is a bipartisan issue. We have the world's safest drug supply, but that does not mean we cannot make it even safer.

I would like to thank the discussion draft's authors for their bipartisan leadership on this very important issue. Earlier this week, a comprehensive discussion draft was released that would increase the security of the supply chain for America's patients while at the same time preventing duplicative federal and state requirements. Their draft also would set forth a collaborative process so the Food and Drug Administration and supply chain stakeholders could work together in an effort to better understand how and when to move to unit-level traceability.

We spent a significant amount of time working on this issue as we successfully moved the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act through the legislative process in 2012 and our efforts continued beyond enactment. During the process, we also sought input from stakeholders like Pfizer and Perrigo in Michigan, as well as our small pharmacies. This hard work allowed us to better understand the issue and the bipartisan discussion draft reflects that understanding. Now it is time to move this legislation down the field and across the goal line. I believe my good friends on the Senate side agree with that sentiment.

Because of the hard work that already has been put in on this issue, I am confident we can get a product to the president's desk by the August recess. I commit today that I will do all that I can to make it happen, including marking up the legislation in the committee in May.

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